

# update

## Governor's Advisory Council on Aging



FALL/WINTER 2002

### The Council Adopts 2003 Advocacy Agenda

To enhance the quality of life for seniors in Arizona, the Council announced it will focus its efforts on maintaining the funding for Home and Community-Based Services ("HCBS") appropriated to the Department of Economic Security. HCBS is the cornerstone of a long term care system that enables older adults to live independently in their homes and communities as long as possible. This program prevents the premature or inappropriate placement of older adults into skilled nursing facilities, a costly proposition for the individual and the State.

The DES non-medical HCBS helps about 21,000 seniors stay in their homes. Women represent 69% of the eligible recipients. HCBS is a case management system that offers an array of services—home delivered meals, home health aides, adult day care, personal care, and respite care services. Case managers also make referrals for other services and provide resources to their clients on an as-needed basis. The demand for HCBS services increases yearly.

HCBS is a family issue. Family members provide an estimated 71% of non-institutional care. HCBS support elders and their family members giving care at extraordinary savings to the federal and state governments. An Administration on Aging study that focused on informal care for older adults with chronic disabilities projected that the costs of replacing informal help with paid home care would cost government between \$45 billion to \$94 billion annually.

The Council will develop briefing papers on eight focus areas covering issues that affect Arizona's older adult population. The eight areas are the State Plan on Aging, Caregiving, Health and Wellness, Active Aging, Work Force Issues, Education, Elder Rights and Economic Issues. The briefing papers will be used to accomplish the Council's legislative mandate, "to advise all state departments which the Council deems necessary on all matters and issues relating to aging including administration of the state plan on aging." The Council will also use the information in its role as a statewide resource on aging.

### 2003 Governor's Council Meeting Schedule

The Governor's Advisory Council on Aging holds its meetings at the Department of Economic Security (DES), in Conference Room 110 at 1717 W. Jefferson, Phoenix. Metered parking is available on the south side of the building. Free parking is available

in the DES underground parking garage at 1789 W. Jefferson, or at the Wesley Bolin Plaza.

The Governor's Advisory Council on Aging meets from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. on the following Fridays:

- January 10, 2003
- February 7, 2003
- April 4, 2003
- May 2, 2003

The Legislative Coordinating Committee and Social Health Committee meet the day before the Council Meeting at 9:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., respectively.

The Alzheimer's Committee will meet at 1:00 p.m. on January 10, 2003 and April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2003.

The schedule is subject to change. Please call the Council Office at 602-542-4710 for the latest schedule.

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## Out with the Old, in with the New... Deficit

Just when Governor Jane D. Hull and the Legislature put one budget to bed, the morning breaks with news of additional revenue shortfalls. In early Fall, FY2002-2003 deficit budget projections were nearing \$500 million. In a one-day special session, the Legislature reduced the shortfall by \$220 million dollars. They accomplished this by cutting \$113 million in general funds to state agencies, freezing 1411 full-time equivalent positions, and transferring \$57 million from special funds to the general fund. Any additional FY 2003 deficit and expected deficit of \$1 billion in FY2004 will fall on the shoulders of Governor-elect Janet Napolitano and the newly redrawn legislative districts.

The Home and Community-based Services programs administered by DES and AHCCCS were spared any reductions. The Judiciary recommended defunding the Elder Law Hotline as part of their 10% reduction plan, but the Legislature chose to decrease the

amount to a 4.2% cut and then prohibited the Courts from defunding the hotline. Older disabled adults will no longer receive cash assistance from the General Assistance Program after December because the Legislature did not appropriate the needed funds to continue the program.

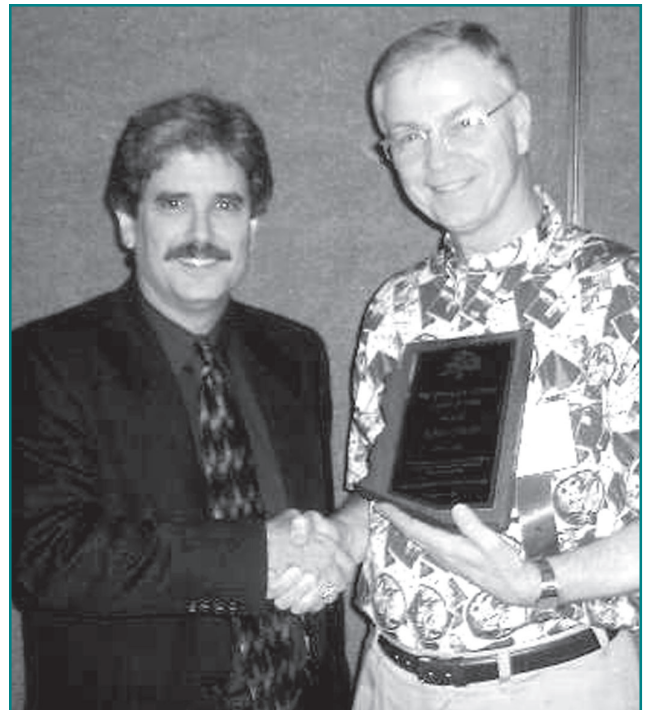
Governor-elect Napolitano and the Legislature are now faced with fewer options to close the gap between state revenues and expenses. More now than ever, the public must become engaged with policy makers about the role of state government and how it should be funded. This means communicating with state officials and legislative representatives about the importance of HCBS and other issues that affect the quality of life in Arizona. One way to accomplish this is by participating in Senior Action Day (see article on page 3), sponsored by the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. Let your voice be heard.

## John Linda Honored at AIAP Conference

On Friday, November 15, 2002, the Council recognized John Linda at the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Arizona Intergenerational Advocacy Partnership (AIAP) Conference. Through John's leadership and organizational skills, the yearly conference has developed and grown for the past eight years.

Seniors and teens seem to be polar opposites when it comes to relating to one another. The AIAP is a unique program that involves high school students and senior citizens. Once a year a group of seniors and students meet for a day and a half of advocacy to study issues of mutual interest. Both groups work in teams, known as families, to find ways to create change within our community.

This year's event, themed *Why Should I Buy What You Are Selling?* joined high school students and older adults to learn about how the intergenerational issue impacts both generations, and to create collaborative advocacy ideas. Both groups benefited as much from the experience as they did from the topic. The Council thanks John Linda for his efforts to foster friendship and advocacy between the generations.



*John Linda, at right, receives from the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging's Executive Director Barry Gold a plaque honoring his contribution of leadership and organizational skills to the Arizona Intergenerational Advocacy Partnership.*

## Two Council Publications Now Available

The Governor's Advisory Council on Aging released the **2002 Conference on Aging Report** for *Active Aging: Opportunities and Challenges*, held May 14-16, 2002 in Tucson. This four-page document contains a summary of the major events, photos of key speakers, information on the participants, and how they rated the conference.

The Council has also revised and published a brochure entitled ***Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias and Driving: Suggestions for***

**Caregivers**. It provides a resource for those concerned about an older person's driving ability.

Copies of both this brochure and the 2002 Conference Report are available by contacting the Council office at 602-542-4710, or by downloading them from the Council's web site at [www.de.state.az.us/gaca](http://www.de.state.az.us/gaca).



# SENIOR ACTION DAY

**Thursday, March 6, 2003**

**8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

**Meet your Legislators! Hear from the Governor!**

**Learn About the Issues and Legislation**

**Affecting Older Adults**

**A variety of  
FOOD VENDORS  
at low cost**

**Free Capitol Tours • Displays and Exhibits**

**FREE  
Admission!**

### GUEST SPEAKERS ON

Health and Wellness • Older Worker Issues • Medicare • Insurance  
Current Legislation • Future Needs • Programs and Services • New Products

**Come to Senior Action Day and let your voices be heard!  
Call the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging at 602 542-4710**

## Visit Our New Web Page

The Governor's Advisory Council on Aging has a newly designed home page at

**[www.de.state.az.us/gaca](http://www.de.state.az.us/gaca)**

The site contains the latest information on the Council, 2003 Meeting Schedules, program descriptions, publications and an expanded resource links page. Visitors can enlarge the font size by going to the View menu, selecting Type Size and then select Large or Larger.

Please visit the site and send us your comments. Contact Elvera Anselmo at 602-542-4710 or [eanselmo@mail.de.state.az.us](mailto:eanselmo@mail.de.state.az.us).



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